

OUR INDIAN DIFFICULTIES.

The Difficulties and Possibilities of Indian Civilization—The Indian King—What is Being Done to Improve the Condition of the Indians.

The following items, communicated by a few of the more Indian Agents, reveal some of the happy changes to civilization that are now happily being introduced, whilst the encouraging letter from the Kansas correspondent of the *Willington and Reading*, although the *Evening Telegraph*, after this issue is published, will interest the *Republican Daily Journal* and *Telegraph*, although the *Evening Telegraph* later on. This issue is a have brought Congress and the tax-payers, sharply before of avaricious contractors, backed by clique ambitious politicians and some unprincipled land jobbers, be any longer allowed to defraud and demoralize the aborigines of this country, to disgrace this nation, to jeopard the lives of our enterprising frontiersmen, and to involve the Government in costly and shameful wars?

This pernicious practice has become so thoroughly incorporated into the political system of our Territories and new States that mere passive abhorrence will not eradicate it. Some of these men, or their accomplices, stir Indians up to commit atrocities that the late Indian policy may be perpetuated.

Let us all rather strive to provide a remedy, instead of expending our righteous indignation against those who are often the mere dupes of men in high position, socially or politically. President Grant is willing to be the leader in this in former important movements, and if he is properly sustained he will fight it out on the line he has indicated. Two months since, with the sanction of Congress, he relieved the Governors of Territories from being *ex-officio* Indian Superintendents. This eradicates much of the evil, as Indian depredations have been the life-blood of partisan patronage in Territories and new States.

Very many of the Senators and Representatives already feel greatly relieved, as their constituents can no longer force them to claim patronage that has hitherto so thoroughly demoralized Indian service. One of the new agents thus writes:—"Time and space would fail to give you particulars of the wrongs done to the Chippewas. Every resource which evil ingenuity could suggest has been used to prevent my gaining the confidence of the Indians or carrying out any plans for their benefit. The good intentions of my friends have been misrepresented, and the ruin of my reputation sought. I suppose that no means, however base, will be spared to defeat me by the enemies of the Indians, who have fattened on their wrongs. The Bois Fort Indians have received no portion of their goods. If they come to the agency to get them, the experience of last winter will be repeated. They will be exhausted and starving before they reach home; therefore their goods will, as hitherto, have become the prey of whisky-sellers and other thieves. Those Indians must receive provisions the coming winter, or many will starve. The treaty provides that their payments shall be made on the reservation, but this provision has been persistently violated. In August last they were called two hundred miles to receive their money annuities, which amount to \$350 per capita. Four hundred miles travel through a difficult country for \$350 each! I shall, as soon as I can, devise some means for relief of these Bois Forts, then I will write and ask your aid to get the matter arranged at Washington." He writes more hopefully under the date of December 20th:—"There is surely enough to do to absorb all my time and energies. I closed two whisky shops, and Obeegwad has not touched whisky since I saw him first, and he is using his influence and example to discourage its use by his people. He looks twenty years younger than he did two months ago. I feel much more hopeful than I did when I first came. The Indian character responds so readily to true human impulses as to astonish me. There is hope for this people. I do trust means will be provided to carry out the work as it should be."

A military officer writes thus:—"The policy inaugurated in Indian affairs by the present administration is working favorably, and, from present appearances, there is every assurance that a lasting peace will yet result from it. May God and our Government sustain you in your work of civilizing the Indians." W. W.

The following is the letter to the *Lawrence Republican State Journal* referred to above:—

COMANCHE CREEK NATION, December 11, 1870.—Editor *Republican State Journal*:—Six years ago this month I took five soldiers and left Fort Gibson on a visit to the old Seminole country, a distance of one hundred and sixty miles from the Arkansas river. Then there was not an Indian family between the Arkansas and Red rivers. War had scattered the people of the Indian Territory, and refugees were living in Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas. Their homes were desolated, their houses burned, their stock killed, stolen, and destroyed. Cultivated fields were laid waste, their rails burned, and their orchards and gardens were destroyed and grown up to weeds and briars. The war closed, all the tribes resident of this country were invited to send delegations to Fort Smith. They met the commissioners of the Government and formed new treaties of amity and friendship. They immediately set about their land to the United States, on which to locate friendly Indians from Kansas and elsewhere. They freed their slaves and made them citizens of their respective tribes. They opened new farms and repaired their old ones. They re-established their schools and reopened their churches.

I venture the assertion that no community in the United States has made more progress in wealth and comfort in the short space of six years than the people of the five tribes that belong to the Indian Territory. They began with nothing. No farming implements, no horses or oxen to farm with, and but little seed to plant. I have seen Indians carrying rails eighty rods to build their fences, and use an axe to plant their corn. As I ride over these beautiful plains to-day, and see well-cultivated fields, with abundant crops of corn and wheat, and thousands of cattle and hogs, and sheep and horses, and see their thrifty orchards and good, substantial houses and fences, I am glad to record their progress, and add my testimony that the Indian is susceptible of a degree of civilization, and that, with proper encouragement, in this fruitful country and splendid climate, he can rise to the full stature and dignity of a man.

Sixty-five district schools in the Cherokee country are now in successful operation, fifty in the Creek country, and about the same number in the Choctaw and Chickasaw country, and four in the Seminole Nation. There are three seminaries of learning, where the higher branches of education are taught, all full to overflowing. Good and devoted missionaries are among them, and converts and churches are multiplying.

The Seminoles, numbering only 2000, raised 10,000 bushels of surplus corn this year. In the Territory, more than one-half million bushels of surplus corn have been raised, and real and substantial improvement is seen on every side. The treaties of 1866 provided that a delegate council of all the tribes resident in the Indian country should be called, to be presided over by the superintendent for this superintendency. For various causes the council has not been called until this year. An appropriation of \$1000 was made by Congress last session to defray the expenses of the council and pay the delegates.

A Superintendent Hoag was charged with the duty of organizing and putting in successful operation this important gathering of the civil-How well this country.

And orderly deliberations succeeded the intelligent session at Ocmulgee which meets in daily industry, patience, and earnestly. His reply revealed a good deal more than being paid for this interesting people. In the intercourse of the delegates of the various tribes, old jealousies are forgotten, old feuds buried, and old hatreds forgiven. Good will and social intercourse are established, and their wants and their wishes are made known to each other.

The council is composed of delegates from the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, Osages, Seminoles, Sac and Foxes, Shawnees, Oklawahas, Senecas, Wyandottes, Peorias, and Ottawas, and numbers in all about seventy members. They will legislate upon the subject of the relations of the Indians to the Government, the rendition of criminals escaping from one tribe to another, and the establishment of courts of justice for the Indian Territory. They will also probably agree upon some form of an Indian government, and will frame a constitution to be submitted to the people for ratification. It is expected that this will be in the nature of a State constitution, a supreme court, and representation in Congress. A memorial has already been presented on this subject, and it is expected it will be adopted substantially as I have above indicated. These are about all the subjects that will be brought before this council for deliberation, and it is believed that the council will adjourn within the next few days.

Yesterday three of the President's commissioners, Colonel Campbell, of St. Louis, Mr. Farwell, of Chicago, and Mr. Lang, of Maine, were here to attend on the deliberations of the council, and lend their advice and counsel to the objects of the gathering. To-day the coming addressed the delegates. With much feeling show so much of kindness and disinterested labor for the good of the race that their efforts should be and doubtless are appreciated by the Indians and the country. Possessed of ample means and comfortable homes, they leave all the comforts of civilization for the purpose of showing their brethren of the Indian race the true way to peace and progress. Every good man will rejoice if their efforts shall be crowned with that success their patience and zeal so richly deserve.

—A Portland paper asserts that a man recently walked into the office of the *Zion's Advocate*, in that pleasant little Maine city, and inquired if Mr. Zion were in.

—Wesley Smead, who founded the Widows' Home in Cincinnati, died at \$500 recently, on his seventieth birthday, making his total contribution \$37,000.

—A stove, used for heating a car by means of hot water, exploded at the Boston and Albany railroad, in Boston, on Monday afternoon. No person was in the car at the time.

—One of the new members of the Illinois Legislature has declined a free pass on a railroad, and has had all the correspondence published in the newspapers of his district to show how unselfish and patriotic he is.

—A man who has been Governor of Maine "accommodated" a stranger on the cars with \$250 the other day. "until he could get a check for \$3000 cashed." That ex-Governor has lost his faith in human nature.

—Rev. W. H. Murray, of Boston, received a sleigh as a Christmas present from some members of his congregation, and said that he thought such a turnout would be adapted to a 23-cent gal, at least.

—A South Carolina mother, when she found, too late, that her daughter had eloped with a member of the Legislature, seized her trunk at the depot, and asserted her vanishing authority by burning its contents.

—Messrs. E. H. Andrews and E. George, of Syracuse, reported to have been lost in the fire at Richmond on the morning of the 25th inst., are safe, having arrived at home on Tuesday morning. They were guests in the Spotswood Hotel, and very narrowly escaped.

—The Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* apologized to its readers on Monday morning for presenting them with a half sheet, its printing establishment having suffered seriously from fire during the night preceding. The *Democrat* quietly remarked that the "press was run until the belting was burned by the fire."

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PROFITABILITY.—Of course nothing can be safer than the bonds of the United States, but as the Government is no longer a borrower, and as the Nation's present work is not that of preserving its existence, but that of developing a continent, we remind those who desire to increase their income and obtain a more permanent investment, while still having a perfectly reliable security, that the United States 5-20s at their average premium yield the present purchaser less than 5 1/2 per cent. years' interest. Should they be redeemed, they would really pay only 4 1/2 per cent. be resumed, they would only 1 1/2 per cent., as the present premium would meanwhile be sunk.

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